



**December 18, 2003**

## **Federal charges brought against alleged bank robber**

A federal complaint has been lodged against **Joseph E. Beaver**, of Providence, charging with armed bank robbery and firearms offenses in connection with a robbery at a Sovereign Bank branch on Smith Street on November 28. Providence Police arrested Beaver shortly after the robbery after being alerted by a woman who spotted the robber leaving the bank, called 911 from her car, and followed the robber's car.

The Office of the United States Attorney, Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, and Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, jointly announced the complaint, which was filed in U.S. District Court on December 12. Beaver, 38, whose address is unknown, appeared today before Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lovegreen, who ordered him detained.

According to an FBI affidavit supporting the complaint, in the late morning of November 28, a masked man entered the Sovereign Bank at 1025 Smith Street and, threatening the use of a gun, robbed three tellers of approximately \$20,000.

An arriving customer saw the robber leaving the bank and noticed signs of a disturbance in the bank. The customer called 911 from her car and then, at a discreet distance, followed the robber, who was leaving the area in a white car. The customer lost sight of the car in the

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vicinity of Elmcroft Street and Academy Avenue but had kept 911 dispatchers apprized of the vehicles whereabouts.

Patrol officers spotted the vehicle parked in a garage at 84 Elmcroft Street and, after obtaining permission from the owners to enter the building, found Beaver hiding under a bed in the first floor apartment. A gun, a mask, a bank bag and money were found in a bathroom.

The complaint charges Beaver with armed bank robbery, using a firearm to commit a crime of violence, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. A complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The charges against Beaver are felonies and therefore subject to review by a grand jury.

Providence Police and the FBI are investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan is prosecuting it for the government.

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